

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIE-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5126

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CU VE

SUBJ: CARACAS PRESS ALLEGES UNITES STATES DETAINS MOVEMENT
TOWARD THE RECOGNITION OF CUBA

1. ALL MAJOR CARACAS NEWSPAPERS CARRIED AUGUST 2 A UPI STORY
DATELINED WASHINGTON OF WHICH A TRANSLATION FROM THE SPANISH
FOLLOWS:

QUOTE RAPID DIPLOMATIC ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES DETAINED AN
INCIPIENT MOVEMENT OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH WERE
SEEKING THE LIFTING OF THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON CUBA. DIPLOMATIC
SOURCES STATED THAT THIS MOVEMENT, PROMOTED BY THE FOREIGN
MINISTER OF COSTA RICA, GONZALO FACIO, WAS ARRESTED BY A SUDDEN
TRIP BY THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), WILLIAM S. MAILLIARD,
TO GUATEMALA, COSTA RICA, PANAMA AND VENEZUELA. OFFICIALS OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONFIRMED TODAY THAT MAILLIARD MADE A
"QUICK TRIP" TO GUATEMALA, PANAMA, COSTA RICA AND VENEZUELA
ACCOMPANIED BY VARIOUS OF HIS ADVISORS. THE OFFICIALS STATED
THAT THE TRIP OF AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD LASTED FROM THE 24TH TO
THE 27TH OF THE PAST MONTH AND WAS MOTIVATED BY THE DESIRE TO
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RENEW HIS "FRIENDSHIPS" IN THE AREA. THEY ADDED THAT IN THE

FUTURE, IF TIME PERMITS, AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD WILL MAKE OTHER SIMILAR TRIPS.

FACIO ARRIVED IN GUATEMALA JULY 11 TO EXPRESS HIS POINTS OF VIEW TO PRESIDENT EUGENIO KJELL LAUGERAUD AND TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES, ACCORDING TO THE MENTIONED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES. THE IDEA OF FACIO WAS THAT COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, PANAMA AND VENEZUELA WERE PRESSURING TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN SPITE OF THE AGREEMENT OF THE 9TH MEETING OF CONSULTATION IN 1964, WHICH WOULD WEAKEN EVEN MORE THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE. THE PROPOSAL OF FACIO WAS THAT BEFORE THESE COUNTRIES RESOLVED UNILATERALLY TO RENEW RELATIONS, THAT THERE SHOULD BE CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTRIES, WITH THE PURPOSE OF CONVENING THE COUNCIL OF THE OAS TO EXAMINE IF THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. UPON ARRIVING FROM GUATEMALA FOUR DAYS LATER, FACIO CONVENED A PRESS CONFERENCE TO DECLARE THAT THE NEW GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAS A FLEXIBLE POSTURE REGARDING CUBA. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES STATED THAT MAILLIARD MET IN CARACAS WITH PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDJYS PEREZ AND THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF COLOMBIA, ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN, OF WHOM THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IS A PERSONAL FRIEND. LOPEZ MICHELSEN LEFT CARACAS THE SAME DAY AS MAILLIARD. UNQUOTE

2. ALTHOUGH THE ENTIRE UPI STORY WAS NOT CARRIED BY THE MAJOR EL NACIONAL, LESSER-READ CARACAS NEWSPAPERS CARRIED ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US DOES NOT OPPOSE CONSULTATIONS OR THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE OAS REEXAMINE THE CUBAN CASE, BUT RATHER THAT IT IS A MATTER OF THE OPPORTUNE TIME.

QUOTE THE DOMINANT IMPRESSION AMONG THE CITED SOURCES IS THAT AFTER THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS IN THE US, WASHINGTON WILL NOT HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THE OAS DEALING WITH THE CUBAN CASE. THE TRIP OF MAILLIARD COINCIDED WITH THE DECLARATIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER JUNE 24 IN THE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE IN WHICH HE REITERATED THE POLICY OF WASHINGTON "WE STILL MAINTAIN OUR POSITION IN RESPECT TO CUBA, BUT WE ALWAYS LISTEN WITH INTEREST TO OUR FRIENDS FROM LATIN AMERICA." THESE DECLARATIONS OF KISSINGER, ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, ARE EVIDENTLY TO GIVE A PUBLIC REPLY TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INITIATIVES OF FACIO. UNQUOTE
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